



## Embassy of the United States in Mexico

### Fact Sheet

### Drug Demand Reduction

In support of the Merida Pillar IV initiative to build strong and resilient communities, the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section (INL) seeks to increase Mexico's capacity to reduce illegal drug consumption. The Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDR) will focus on assisting the Government of Mexico in adopting internationally-recognized best practices for the diagnosis and treatment of drug addictions and supporting the creation of strategic pilot programs that can be sustained and replicated nationwide. This effort is currently comprised of the following programs:

- 1. Drug Treatment Courts (DTCs):** INL Mexico has provided technical assistance since 2009 for the creation and expansion of DTCs in Mexico. In 2014, Chihuahua, Morelos, Durango and the State of Mexico opened DTCs. INL has funded training and the development of procedural handbooks, needs assessments, and court management tools. It also has financed a diagnostic study by the Organization of American States (OAS) of Mexico's first drug treatment court, in Nuevo León.
- 2. Anti-Drug Community Coalitions:** INL Mexico funds an initiative to build anti-drug community coalitions in cities throughout Mexico. INL grantee Programa Compañeros, an NGO based in Ciudad Juárez, is coordinating the consolidation of existing coalitions in Chihuahua, Baja California, and Sonora and organizing their expansion to Tamaulipas, Durango, Nuevo Leon and the State of Mexico. The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America provides training and technical assistance for this effort. The program educates and empowers members of the coalitions to eliminate inducements to drug use in their communities.
- 3. Drug Counselor Certification:** In partnership with the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) INL seeks to institutionalize the education of addiction treatment staff, through development of a training and certification program. The project has already completed a national survey of inpatient facilities and available treatment services, and approximately 600 counselors have been trained. Certification of the counselors with the new standards is expected to begin in mid-2015.
- 4. Other Initiatives:** INL Mexico has funded research projects to determine the most effective interventions for treating addictions and conducted a binational prevalence study that identified drug consumption in both Southern California and Baja California, Mexico.

The Merida Initiative has also financed the development of a model drug rehabilitation and prevention center in Ciudad Juárez, where Centros de Integración Juvenil, A.C., provides job training, addiction diagnosis/prevention, and artistic/sports activities. INL Mexico supported the creation of the National Network against Addictions (RENADIC) to link 400 addiction resource centers across Mexico. This network enables accurate case management, standardizes diagnostics and data collection, and encourages best practices.

INL also contributes consistently to knowledge exchanges benefitting both countries through support for conferences, training events and study tours.